

REMARKS

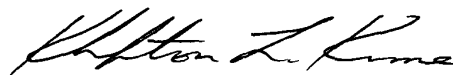
Claims 19, 21-22 and 24-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 52 is amended. No new matter is added.

Claim 52 is amended to delete the positively recited feature of "a mask on which a protection member is provided via a frame." Claim 52 is further amended to recite an exposure apparatus "using a mask on which a protection member is provided via a frame" to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 52 is not narrowed by such amendments and remains patentable over the references of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 19, 21-22 and 24-57 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: October 7, 2003

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